

Response Dated: April 17, 2009

REMARKS

Applicant provisionally elects the Group I claims (claims 1-20 and 28), with traverse.

Applicant respectfully traverses the requirement for restriction, and respectfully requests that it be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully believes that the Group I invention should at least include the Group II claims 24-26 (Group II invention) for the following reasons:

First, the Group I claims, 1-20 and 28, are drawn to an aqueous acidic solution. The Group II invention, *i.e.*, claims 24-26, is drawn to a method of electrolytically depositing copper coatings on metal or plastic surfaces. The claim Groups should be examined together because the method of claim Group II requires bringing the surfaces into contact with the solution according to claim 1. Thus, the scope of the Group II method is restricted to using the solution of Group I invention. Therefore, any burden on the Examiner to search the method would be limited by searching the composition given by the solution according to claim 1, *i.e.*, Group I invention.

Therefore, for these reasons, the restriction requirement, with respect to the Group I and Group II claims should be traversed. Applicant maintains that the relationship among claims in Group I and Group II, as discussed above, is a close one. Accordingly, it would appear that the search for the Group I and the Group II features would require similar searching. However, even where the claims are for separate inventions, that alone is not a reason for restricting the claims. One must consider the economy to the USPTO and the applicant.

As the M.P.E.P. Section 803 provides:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

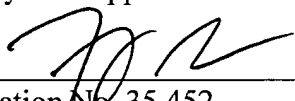
In the present case, inclusion of more than one claim group in this application, in particular, the Group I and Group II claims, would appear to promote purposes of economic efficiency, for both the Patent Office and the Applicant.

Accordingly, for the above reasons, reconsideration and a withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested. If further matters remain in connection with the restriction, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned representative to discuss them.

If necessary, an appropriate extension of time to respond is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to the Patent Office Deposit Account No. 05-0208.

Respectfully submitted,
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